(S)-3-carbon amino alcohol (IV) or (S)-secondary ester protected alcohol (V). X can be halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy, and preferably is Cl. --

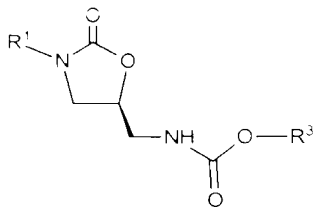
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Alternatively, the transformation from compound (III) to compound (X) or (XI) can be accomplished as a one pot process without isolating amine (IX). It is preferred that the acylating or thioacylating agent is selected from the group consisting of an acid anhydride of the structural formula $O(R^5)_2$, an activated acid of the structural formula R^5X, and a dithioester of the structural formula $R^5S(C=S)R^5$, wherein R^5 is C_1-C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6 cycloalkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylthio-carbonyl, or C_1-C_6 cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, and X is halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy. It is preferred that the acylating agent or thioacylating agent is used in conjunction with a base, such as a tri(C_1-C_5 alkyl)amine. It is more preferred that R^5 is acetyl and X is Cl. Specifically, it is more preferred that the acylating reagent is an acyl anhydride, and most preferably the acyl anhydride is acetic anhydride. --

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 17, 32, and 57-58 with the following amended claims:

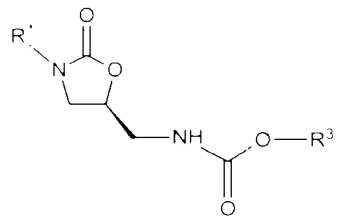
17. (Amended) An (S)-intermediate having a general structural formula:



wherein R^1 is an substituted aryl group and R^3 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, provided that when R^3 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or C--C_{11} araalkyl and R^1 is phenyl, the substituents on R^1 are not hydrogen, monofluoro, monochloro, monobromo, or mononitro

substituent, alone or in combination with a 4-methylsulfonyl, 4-methylthio, 4-methylsulfinyl, 4-sulfamyl, 4-isopropyl, 4-(C_1-C_3alkyl)carbonyl, 4-ethyl, 4-(1-hydroxyethyl), or 4-acetyloxyacetyl substituent.

32. (Amended) A method of preparing an (S)-oxazolidinone having a general structural formula:

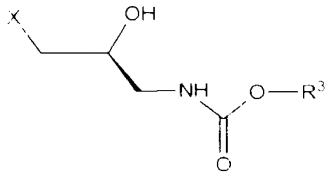


wherein R^2 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, and R^1 is optionally substituted aryl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, comprising contacting a carbamate having a general structural formula:

$$R^1\text{-NH-CO-O-CH}_2\text{-}R^2$$

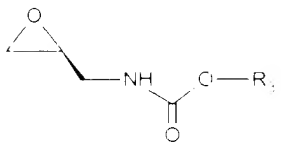
wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_3-C-cycloalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with one or two C_1-C_3 alkyl or halogen groups, allyl, 3-methylallyl, 3,3-dimethylallyl, vinyl, styrylmethyl, benzyl optionally substituted on the phenyl with one or two Cl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, nitro, cyano, or trifluoromethyl groups, 9-fluorenylmethyl, trichloromethylmethyl, 2-trimethylsilylethyl, phenylethyl, 1-adamantyl, diphenylmethyl, 1,1-dimethylpropargyl, and isobornyl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, with

i) a secondary alcohol having a general structural formula:

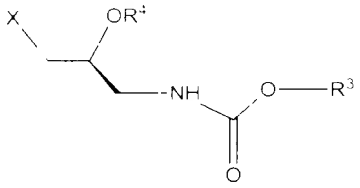


wherein X is halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy, or a salt or hydrate thereof;

ii) an (S)-epoxide having a general structural formula:

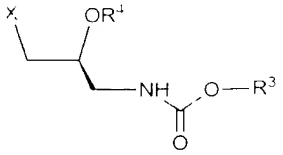


or iii) an (S)-ester having a general structural formula:



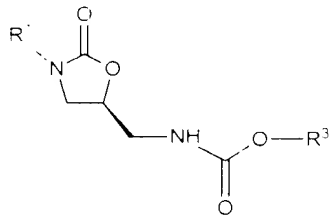
wherein R^4 is C_1-C_5 alkylcarbonyl; in the presence of a lithium cation and a base whose conjugate acid has a pKa of greater than about 8.

57. (Amended) A compound having a the S-configuration of general structural formula:



wherein R^3 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, R^4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_5 alkylcarbonyl, X is halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyloxy, or taken together with OR^4 to form an epoxide.

58. (Amended) A method of preparing an (S)-oxazolidinone having a general structural formula:

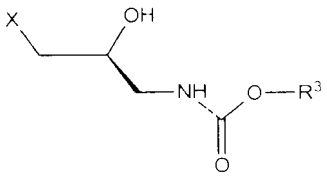


wherein R^3 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, and R^1 is optionally substituted aryl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, comprising contacting a carbamate having a general structural formula:

$$R^1\text{-NH-CO-O-CH}_2\text{-}R^2$$

wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_3-C-cycloalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with one or two C_1-C_3 alkyl or halogen groups, allyl, 3-methylallyl, 3,3-dimethylallyl, vinyl, styrylmethyl, benzyl optionally substituted on the phenyl with one or two Cl, C_1-C_4 alkyl, nitro, cyano, or trifluoromethyl groups, 9-fluorenylmethyl, trichloromethylmethyl, 2-trimethylsilylethyl, phenylethyl, 1-adamantyl, diphenylmethyl, 1,1-dimethylpropargyl, and isobornyl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, with

i) a secondary alcohol having a general structural formula:

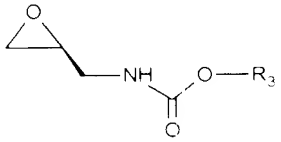


wherein X is halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy, or a salt or hydrate thereof made by the process comprising contacting an (S)-3-carbon amino alcohol having a general structural formula:

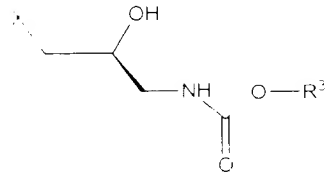
$$X\text{-}CH_2\text{-}C^{*(S)}H(OH)\text{-}CH_2\text{-}NH_3^+$$

with a base and an carbonylating agent selected from the group consisting of a haloformate having a formula R^3O-CO-X and a dialkyldicarbonate having a formula $R^3OCO_2R^3$;

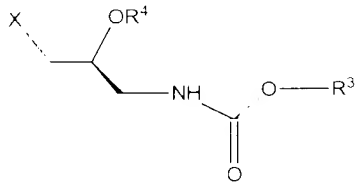
ii) an (S)-epoxide having a general structural formula:



made by the process comprising contacting an (S)-secondary alcohol having a general structural formula:

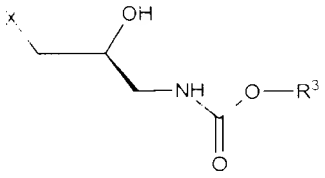


with a base and an acylating agent selected from the group consisting of an acid anhydride having a formula $O(R^4)_2$, and an activated acid having a formula R^4X; or iii) an (S)-ester having a general structural formula:



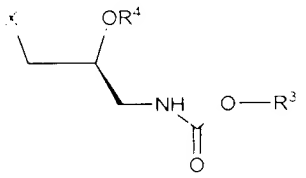
wherein R^4 is C_1-C_5 alkylcarbonyl made by the process comprising contacting

a) an (S)-secondary alcohol having a general structural formula:



wherein X is a halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy; or

b) an (S)-ester having a general structural formula:



wherein R^4 is C_1-C_5 alkylcarbonyl, with a lithium cation and a base whose conjugate acid has a pKa of greater than about 8;

in the presence of a lithium cation and a base whose conjugate acid has a pKa of greater than about 8.